The Augusta Coin Club Meets on the 3rd Thursday of the Month at the Sunrise Grill, 3830 Washington Rd. Martinez

The Augusta Coin Club since 1959

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2nd V.P. Tommy Rhoden
Sec. John T. Attaway
Treas. Stacey Plooster
Sgt. in Arms: Bryan Hoyt

Club Mailing Address
Augusta Coin Club
P.O. Box 2084
Evans, GA 30809
Web site:
www.augustacoinclub.org

Special Duties
Webmaster: Robert Sanborn
Newsletter editor, Arno Safran
E-mail: arnosafran@comcast.net
Bourse Chairman, Steven Nix
Auction: Burles Johnson
Bids Recorder, Tommy Rhoden

Volume 25, Number 4 **THE AUGUSTA COIN CLUB MONTHLY NEWSLETTER** **April 2025**

Our next meeting is Thursday, April 17, 2025, early arrivals from 6:00 PM

Club Meeting Calendar for 2025

Jan. 16	May 15	Sep. 18
Feb. 20	June 19	Oct. 16
Mar. 20	July 17	Nov. 20
Apr. 17	Aug. 21	Dec. 18

Collecting interesting U.S. coinage during the early 20th century Part 2 from 1909 to 1921 by Arno Safran

The three Lincoln cent types of 1909
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen or 150% to see details more clearly.]

The year, 1909, represented the 100th anniversary since Abraham Lincoln's birth that by now was considered a highly admired political figure, so after 51 years that the Indian head cent was struck it was decided that the 16th president should be celebrated during the 100th anniversary of his birth.

In 1901 Republican, Theodore Roosevelt, became our nation's 26th upon the assassination of William McKinley and the youngest president in U.S. history. He was the most progressive president in the author's opinion since John Quincy Adams and he considered Lincoln to be the savior of the Union. He had a strong ego and he also considered himself Lincoln's political heir.

A few years earlier, a Lithuanian immigrant sculptor named Victor David Brenner had made a portrait of Roosevelt who was so pleased with his work, that he asked him to create the Lincoln cent to be released just in time for the nation to celebrate Lincoln's 100th birthday in 1909. The middle coin shown above displays Brenner's initials VDB on the bottom of the reverse and this annoyed some political upstarts, so it was removed later in the year. The three coins represent a nice **triple *transitional date's*** combo.

The end of the era of Liberty head nickels

The 1912-P-D & S Liberty Head "V" nickels
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen or 150% to see details more clearly.]

Charles Barber was the chief Engraver of the U.S. Mint from 1880 thru 1917, the longest of any chief engraver before or since. He would be the last engraver to create coins representative of the earlier styles, and towards the end of his career, he was vilified by the newer younger engravers of the early 20th century, some of whom were pupils of Augusta Saint Gaudens. Nevertheless, Barber's coins were both attractive and functional. The five cent nickel denomination was first released in 1866 as the Shield nickel and designed by James Barton Longacre. It was struck only at the Philadelphia Mint. In 1883, it was replaced by Charles Barber's Liberty Head design and still produced only at the Philadelphia Mint, but in 1912, it was coined at all three mints; Philadelphia, San Francisco and Denver as shown above in the lower uncirculated grades of **MS-62 & 63.** The 1912-D output had fewer numbers and is more costly than the Philadelphia Mint issue while the 1912-S' output was smaller still and is considerably more expensive than both; so obtaining all three was a challenge for the collector.

(Continued on page 2, column 1)

The Changeover from the 1912 Liberty Head nickels to the 1913 Buffalo nickels

One of the five BU 1913 Liberty nickels
(Photo, courtesy of Wikipedia and the National Numismatic Collection]
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen or 150% to see details more clearly.]

By 1913, some government officials wished to change Barber's Liberty Head V nickel type after being impressed by James Earle Fraser's Indian Chief Designs but before that event occurred a strange thing happened that is still open to debate. One of the employees of the U.S. Mint named Samuel W. Brown supposedly had five proof Liberty Head nickels made with the 1913 date and held them for several years before placing an ad requesting that he would pay $500 to $600 for anyone who had one of these coins in their possession. Later on he displayed the five nickels at a Chicago Coin club and the 1920 American Numismatic Association Convention before selling them to a Philadelphia dealer. He was never tried and lived out the rest of his life in a small town in central New York State. Each of the five coins is worth in the multimillions today.

The two 1913 Buffalo nickel coin t types showing the reverses of the Buffalo on mound above and recessed below

The Buffalo nickel was the created by James Earle Fraser, a talented sculptor who at one time assisted Augustus Saint-Gaudens. The obverse of the new nickel featured a combination of three Indian Chiefs facing right with a bison facing left on the reverse. After realizing that the buffalo on the mound caused the denomination **FIVE CENTS** to wear more rapidly, it was altered later in the year by placing the **FIVE CENTS** within the coin rather than above. The coin on the right displays the minor alteration which was struck thru 1938.

After years of traditional variations showing the Bust of Miss Liberty on the reverse, the new Indian Head-Head/ Buffalo nickel was a fresh change and became extremely popular with the people. A nickel was used for lots of things back then; transportation, a candy bar, ice-cream cones, newspapers and a number of various other items. Today a Snickers bar sells for $1.75 at a Publix Supermarket.

The Transitional Dates of the 1916 dimes

The 1916 Barber dime above the *Mercury* dime
Transitional dates are fun to collect!

By 1916, it would be 25 straight years since the Barber silver coinage types was first minted and since a new law passed in 1890, allowing the Mint to change coinage designs every 25 years, it was decided by the Mint officials in 1915 to have a different coin design type produced for the dime, quarter and half-dollar to be released in 1916. These officials felt that Barber's style was outdated--as did former president, Theodore Roosevelt. Eventually, sculptors, Adolph Weinman and Hermon MacNeil were asked to create the new coinage designs. At the time Weinman owned some housing in Manhattan and selected Elsie Stevens, the young wife of the renowned poet, Wallace Stevens who had rented an apartment from Weinman. According to an article appearing in Wikipedia, Weinman's dime depicts Liberty with a wreath of tight curls, wearing a traditional Liberty cap. For serious coin collectors, however, they have two different dime types struck during in 1916 to collect.

Elsie Stevens

The Transitional dates of the 1916 quarters

The 1916 Barber quarter graded MS-63 above the *Standing Liberty quarter* graded MS-62

In 1916, 1,788,000 Barber quarters were struck at the Philadelphia Mint compared with 6,500,800 struck at the Denver Mint but both are valued at $375 today grading MS-63. The 1916 Standing Liberty quarter--created by Hermon MacNeil--was struck only at the Philadelphia Mint and at the end of the year, with only 52,000 produced and even grading MS-62, is quite expensive. It cost the author, $13.400 back in 2010. Today, it retails for $18,000.

(Continued on page 3, column 1)

The Transitional dates of the 1917 Standing Liberty Quarters

The Type One at left & the Type Two at right
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen or 150% to see details more clearly.]

Look at both these coins carefully! Do they look exactly the same? Here's where being able to transfer the PDF examples from the email to your computer becomes a must because then you can enlarge the photos by 150% and 200% to see the subtle changes between the two coins more clearly.

The type one standing Liberty quarter at left displays Hermon McNeil's design showing Miss Liberty standing between two large pedestals while holding an olive branch in her right hand, and a shield in her left which suggested that the United States wished for peace rather than war prior to entering World War One. Miss Liberty is shown wearing a gown holding a shield that shows one of her breasts. This caused a lot of unrest by religious leaders at the time so for type the two 1917 version of the coin, McNeil cleverly covered her dress with Chain mail armor but he made a few other subtle changes as well. He altered Miss Liberty's hairdo; added fewer stars around the shield, while on the reverse, he raised the eagle, adding three stars below it while enlarging the nine others stars above that surrounded the eagle while the legend, **UNITED STATES** remained atop. Collecting transitional dates are one of the writer's enjoyable numismatic delights.

The Half-dollar Coinage of 1915, 1916 & 1917

A 1915-D Barber half-dollar graded MS-62 by PCGS
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen or 150% to see details more clearly.]

Unlike the Barber dimes and quarters which were coined thru 1916, the Barber half-dollars were struck in for the last time in 1915, a year earlier. Usually the Philadelphia Mint produced the most half dollars of the three mints then in operation, but starting in 1913, they struck the least of the three mints; only 188,000 in 1913, just 124,230 in 1914 and 138,000 with the result that they are far more expensive than the halves struck in Denver or San Francisco. The 1915-D half dollar is the second most common date of the Barber half-dollar series.

When the author acquired the 1915-D half-dollar shown at the bottom of column 1, it sold for $670 back in 2013 which was full retail at the time. This was before the Barber coinage retail prices were dropped 20% in 2018. Today, the 1915-D Barber half-dollar retails for $850 according to PCGS' COINFACTS. Having said that, the coin while graded MS-62 appears closer to an MS-63 grade since it is much sharper and totally problem free even when magnified to 200% compared with the more recent ones seen on line by the writer.

A 1916-D Walking Liberty half-dollar graded MS-64 by NG C

In 1916, the Walking Liberty Half-dollar was produced at all three mints thereby replacing the Barber half struck the year before. The Philadelphia Mint continued to strike the fifty-cent piece in the 100 thousands rather than the millions it used to release prior to 1913 with just 608,000 being produced while the Denver Mint once again struck the most with 1,010,400 coined. The San Francisco Mint however, struck the least with just 508,000 coined and they circulated heavily apparently because the coin is scarce and expensive. The 1916 **D** mintmark was placed on the obverse below the motto **IN GOD WE TRUST**. The author acquired the coin at the FUN show held in Orlando, FL back in January, 2013 at the retail price of $875. Today it retails for $2,100 with recent auction prices ranging from as low as $1.000 to $1,920. Go figure! The 1916-P is valued similarly but the 1916-S is considered a real rarity; having the fourth lowest mintage of the entire Walking Liberty series.

The Transitional dates Half-dollars of 1917

At left, the 1917-D Type 1 AU-55 Walking Liberty half-dollar displays the mint-mark D on the obverse under the Motto, IN GOD WE TRUST. At the right is the 1917-D Type 2, AU-50 Walking Liberty half-dollar. The D mintmark that has travelled all the way to the far left on to the reverse side of the coin just below the flowers.

(Continued on page 4, column one)

The Transitional Dates Silver Dollars of 1921

The 1921 Morgan dollar and Peace dollar
The Morgan dollar above was certified MS-65;
the 1921 Peace dollar, just MS-62.
[Enlarge page to fill monitor screen or 150% to see details more clearly.]

After World War I ended in November 11, 1918, the United States congress passed a law known as the Pittman Act which provided 66,758 ft. of silver bullion taken from 270,232,722 silver dollars to provide Great Britain with the necessary post war financial a ssistance. As part of the Pittman Act, the Mint was required to add more silver dollars back in 1921 which is why the Peace dollar was suggested but the new dollar coin was not yet completed so the Morgan dollar was renewed although slightly altered by George Morgan who by that time was 67 years old making Miss Liberty's head slightly smaller, thinner and younger in appearance. The coin--as shown at left above--was struck at all three U.S. mints then in operation, Philadelphia , San Francisco and Denver and the mintages were huge with 44,600,000 produced at the Philadelphia Mint alone. 86,730,000 1921 Morgan dollars were struck if one combines the output of all three mints.

An attempt to display the slight differences between a
1889-O regular issue of the Morgan dollar and the 1921–P type

As for the Peace dollar which was struck from 1921 thru 1935--although not in every year--it was created by Sculptor, Anthony de Francisci who used his lovely wife, Teresa to pose as Miss Liberty on the obverse, (See atop!) The coin was chosen to commemorate peace for all nations after the horrors of World War I in which millions were killed in combat.

AUGUSTA COIN CLUB, INC.
MINUTES OF MEETING
March 20, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Sunrise Grill by President, Shelby Plooster. We had 48 members present and 2 guests present.

The Secretary's Report:

The February 20, 2025 minutes were not read. A copy is kept on file.

The Treasurer's Report:

The Treasurer's Report was sent by email from Stacey Plooster. We have $16,987.39 deposited in the Club's checking account.

The Prize Winners:

The winner of the 50/50 raffle for $77.00 was John Attaway. Bruce Eaton and James Alexander each won a 1 oz.5 Silver Eagle.

Our Upcoming Spring Coin Show is scheduled for May 16th (Friday) and May 17th (Saturday) 2025 at the Columbia County Exhibition Center located of Exit 190 on I-20m at just a quarter-mile after the Grovetown Walmart Sopping Center. Steve Nix is our Bourse Chairman. Our profit from the 2024 Fall Coin Show was just $692.42.

Show and Tells:

Arno Safran made commented on the Augusta Coin Club newsletter is intended to be a tool for research by would be club numismatist members.

Everitt Price displayed a 2017 $100 dollar Radar note.

The Program:

Charles White's program was on "Interesting Facts about the 1893-S Morgan dollar. "Charles began by explaining that the 1893-S Morgan dollar was impossible to counterfeit. According to the 1962 Red Book the 1903-O (for New Orleans mint) was rarer than the 1893-S (for the San Francisco Mint) Morgan dollars. Charles went on to explain the key nicks and marks on the 1893-S to see if it is real. Adding S to 1893 Philadelphia Morgan was the most common way. After 1962 bags of 1903-O Morgan dollars were found, therefore, causing the value to go down.

President Shelby Plooster gave Charles a certificate for his great program.

Member Jim Sproull told the club members that the Aiken Coin Club's recent coin show held on March 10, 2025 at the South Alien Presbyterian Church gymnasium was a huge success with packed house of attendees at the filled the hall. All the dealers were thrilled with the enthusiasm of the crowd and Steve Kuhl--who was the Bourse chairman--said it was by far, the best show the club ever had. It was the first show the club had since 2019 when Covid and other conditions made it impossible to have one. The club netted over $1,800.

(Our Club Minutes Continues on page 5, column 1)

AUGUSTA COIN CLUB, INC.
MINUTES OF MEETING
March 20, 2025

(Continued from the previous page)

The Club Medallion

Since no club medallions were made in 2024, we're going to show our newer members the medallions struck since their inception.

Augusta Coin club Medallion NO. 1

The 2005 Augusta Cotton Exchange building struck in copper

Old Business:

Please leave a tip for drinks at the Sunrise Grill. Shelby stated you could only win a door prize if you are a paying member.

New business:

Perfect attendance has been suspended. Red books from Clein's Rare Coins will not be available this year. Program givers will be awarded two Silver Eagles instead of a 1/10 oz. gold coin. Members, Please pay your dues. This was the outcome of our Board of Directors Meeting on February 18, 2025. Rent to use the Sunrise Grill was raised from $50a meeting to $200.

Upcoming Coin Shows:

ANA Coin Show, also in Atlanta, GA, Fe. 27-Mar. 2
Atlanta Monthly Show, March 9, 2025 Marietta, GA
Midlands Coin Show April 4-5, 2025
Columbia, Sc
Camden Show March 21,22, 2025
Camden, Sc
GNA Show April 11-13, 2025
Dalton, Ga

Our Monthly Club Coin Auction

Burles Johnson ran the auction (10 lots). Everette Price and Shelby Plooster delivered the goods as the auction was carried on; therefore, speeding up the auction. Bids recorder was Tommy Rhoden.

Respectively Submitted,
John Thomas Attaway

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